

9 February 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

25X1 SUBJECT: Distribution of [REDACTED]

25X1 1. I have endeavored to restrict the overseas distribution of
[REDACTED] on ORCON document, to those installations with
a clear need to know in order to fulfill their missions. Accordingly,
when the State Department called me for permission to send the Estimate
25X1 to 137 overseas installations world-wide, I said that it should be sent
to the US Embassy [REDACTED] only, because this was a sensitive,
25X1 policy-related document concerning [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I separately authorized distribution to the DDO Station

25X1 2. In my conversation with DIA on distribution, I recommended
that the NIE be distributed to the following commands only: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] This prompted an immediate reaction from
Col. Richard Meredith, an aide to General Wilson at DIA. He said the
NIO did not have the authority to limit the distribution of an NIE,
and quoted a memorandum from Admiral D. P. dePoix dated 12 July 1974
(copy attached). I reaffirmed my views on the desirability of limit-
ing the distribution, pointing out that I saw no need for a document
such as this going to the various war colleges and other installations
which were not concerned with the matter. He replied that he had talked
with Walt Elder and that he intended to use his best judgment in select-
ing addressees. He seemed concerned that I had a copy of the standard
distribution list used by DIA for NIEs, SNIEs, and NIAMs (copy attached).

3. When I talked to him this morning, he said that he had again
discussed the matter with Walt Elder and Admiral Bobby Inman, Chief of
Naval Intelligence, both of whom urged him not to hold up distribution.
He said that he cut back distribution substantially from the 134 copies
which his office normally sends out, and that he stapled a transmittal
letter to each copy describing what the addressees could and could not
do with the NIE. He said that 35 copies went to Army, Navy, and Air
Force automatically, in what he called pre-dissemination. Fifty-three
copies went to DOD addressees, out of the 99 normally sent to them. Of
these, nine copies went to eight overseas commands (two copies went to

[REDACTED]
SECRET

25X1

[redacted] He said the overseas commands needed the Estimate for planning, contingencies, or impact on their operations. Five of the overseas commands were Navy, two were Air Force, and two were Unified Commands. He did not identify any of these other than Southern Command.

4. The attachment to USIB-D-9.1/25, revised on 24 January 1975, states that the NIOs will keep account of the number of NIEs issued, advising the DCI as appropriate, hence this memo.

5. It seems to me that a useful purpose would be served in signalling restricted distribution of any NIE which supports the formulation or implementation of policy on a sensitive matter in advance so that it could be part of the paper approved by NFIB. This could be accomplished in a brief paragraph on the inside cover of the NIE.

[redacted]
A/NIO/LA

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Attachments:

- A. Memo from Adm. dePoix
- B. DIA Distribution List

Distribution:

- 1 - D/DCI/NI
- 1 - NIE file
- 1 - chrono